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SYNOPSIS

CRIME AGAINST WOMAN AND PUNISHMENT GOALS: SOCIAL ORDER AND COUNTRY MODERATE PUBLIC PROTEST EFFECT

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The authors investigated the country difference in the public protest effect on the punishment goals pursued in cases of severe crimes against women. In a randomised experiment, Indians and Americans read about a severe crime committed by a man against a woman in the presence of his group of friends. The experimental manipulations were about (a) the prevailing social order (unspecified vs. deteriorating, i.e., the combination of rising crime rate and declining conviction rate) and (b) the resulting public protest (no vs. yes) against that crime. Participants indicated the punishment goals they pursued with the offender (deterrence and retribution) and his group of friends

(deterrence and omission). Both manipulations were successful. Also, responses to punishment goals with the offender and his group had two-factor structures. Importantly, country-specific differences in responses to public protests supported the hypothesised moderation by country. Americans pursued the deterrence and retribution goals equally regardless of public concern with the crime; Indians, in contrast, pursued both goals more vehemently when there was public protest against the crime than when there was no public concern at all. Thus, public protest affected the pursuit of the deterrence and retribution goals by Indians but not by Americans. In the absence of

public concern, Indians found it to be practical by going along with how the society actually functions. Given public protests, however, they considered what is right versus wrong for the society and how women's security might be achieved. Such flexibility in responding to public concern portrays Indians as *pragmatic politicians*. No public protest effect on responses by Americans reflects on their value concern as to how the society ought to function. Like *principled theologians*, therefore, they protect the sacred values of deterrence and retribution from encroachments by temporary ups and downs in the society.

INFORMATION PROCESSING UNDER STRESS: A STUDY OF MUMBAI POLICE FIRST RESPONDERS

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The deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, on 26th November 2008 brought into focus the readiness of the Mumbai Police and Indian Marine Commandos as the first line of defence against such attacks. Not much research has focussed on gaining insights into the motivation and decision-making process of first responders in the Mumbai Police department. This understanding might serve the purpose of providing a good perspective and also an appreciation of the tasks conducted in such tense situations. It would also help appreciate any potential gaps that need to be filled regarding the police response to terrorist attacks in general.

An officer in the police department, whether in the control room or on the field, makes several decisions, especially during a grave situation like the 26/11 terrorist attacks. Each of these decisions is driven by a motivation which is usually derived from knowledge about the situation at hand, personal experience, and perception about the situation, as earlier research has shown. The authors in this study refer to this, collectively, as *Information Processing* – a concept that captures various factors including knowledge, experience, personality, and perception that lead to a motivation which in turn leads to a decision taken.

In this study we explore the information processing that governed the first response from the Mumbai Police department towards these attacks. This study was conducted through interviews and survey with officers from two distinct groups within the department. Our study presents several findings about the various dimensions of information processing. The findings focus on the decisions taken by the Mumbai first responders, both on field and in the control room, during the initial hours of the attacks. Our findings have been used to propose recommendations for law enforcement.